Foreign Investment Promotion Board (FIPB) approvals for bringing in 74% Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) from M/s ByCell Holding AG, Switzerland. Subsequently, all FIPB approvals granted to M/s ByCell Telecommunications India Private Limited were revoked by the FIPB on the basis of objections raised by the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) from the security angles. On withdrawal of security clearance by MHA and FDI approval granted to M/s ByCell Telecommunications India Private Limited, Department of Telecommunications (DoT) is considering the cancellation of Letters of Intent for all the five circles subject to the final outcome of W.P. (U) No. 8989 of 2009 before Hon'ble High Court of Delhi in the matter of' M/s ByCell Telecommunications India versus Union of India'.

(d) to (e) The Government does not conduct investigation on telecom licensees except for security clearance by MHA in all the Foreign Direct Investment proposals, having FDI more than 49% and upto 74% where FIPB clearance is required. The comments of MHA are dully considered by FIPB.

**Bid for supply of equipments of mobile phone**

3104. SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICA-TIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether an integrity panel set up by the Central Vigilance Commission has endorsed BSNL's decision to disqualify on technical grounds a bid for supply of equipments for 93 million mobile phone connections;

(b) if so, whether the BSNL is in the process of price negotiation with rival combind bidder;

(c) whether the umbrella body representing all employee unions of BSNL has alleged delay in implementation of expansion plans which is mainly due to litigation initiated by bidders; and

(d) if so, Government's reactions thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT): (a) Sir, M/s NSN had *inter-alia* submitted their bids for part 1 and part II in North Zone for 25 million lines. However, their bids were found substantively non responsive on techno commercial grounds. M/s NSN had approached Hon'ble High Court of Punjab & Haryana. The said court disposed their petition with the direction that final decision may be taken after scrutiny by Independent External Monitors (IEM) set up as per the guidelines of Central Vigilance Commission. The IEM has endorsed BSNL's decision in this regard.

(b) Sir, BSNL is in the process of price negotiations with M/s Ericsson in North Zone for part I & part II of the tender.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) BSNL is pursuing the litigation cases.

**Telephone to all revenue villages**

3105. SHRI BHAGAT SINGH KOSHYARI: Will the Minister of COMMUNI-CATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has proposal to provide telephone to all the revenue villages in the country;

(b) whether any target has been fixed for the purpose; and

(c) the progress that has been made in that regard, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT): (a) to (c) As on 31.10.2009, out of a total of 5,93,601 inhabited villages as per Census 2001, 5,62,152 villages (about 95%) have been provided with Village Public Phones (VPTs). It has been decided to cover all the remaining inhabited villages with VPTs through subsidy support from Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) in a phased manner by February, 2011. Circle-wise details are given in the Statement.

***Statement***

*Status of villages covered with VPTs (As on* 31.10.2009*)*

| Sl. No. | Name of the Circle | Total no. of inhabited villages as per Census 2001 | Total No. of villages provided with VPT |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 1. | Andaman & Nicobar | 501 | 302 |
| 2. | Andhra Pradesh | 26613 | 23391 |
| 3. | Assam | 25124 | 23764 |
| 4. | Bihar | 39032 | 37933 |
| 5. | Jharkhand | 29354 | 27443 |
| 6. | Gujarat | 18159 | 17096 |
| 7. | Haryana | 6764 | 6671 |
| 8. | Himachal Pradesh | 17495 | 17260 |
| 9. | Jammu & Kashmir | 6417 | 5902 |
| 10. | Karnataka | 27481 | 27418 |
| 11. | Kerala | 1372 | 1372 |
| 12. | Madhya Pradesh | 52117 | 51986 |
| 13. | Chhattisgarh | 19744 | 17877 |
| 14. | Maharashtra | 41442 | 39572 |
| 15. | Meghalaya | 5782 | 3103 |
| 16. | Mizoram | 707 | 692 |
| 17. | Tripura | 858 | 804 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
|---|---|---|---|
| 18. | Arunachal Pradesh | 3863 | 1473 |
| 19. | Manipur | 2315 | 1960 |
| 20. | Nagaland | 1278 | 1213 |
| 21. | Orissa | 47529 | 42894 |
| 22. | Punjab | 12301 | 12047 |
| 23. | Rajasthan | 39753 | 39363 |
| 24. | Tamil Nadu | 15492 | 15458 |
| 25. | Uttar Pradesh (East) | 74161 | 74123 |
| 26. | Uttar Pradesh (West) | 23781 | 23581 |
| 27. | Uttaranchal | 15761 | 13849 |
| 28. | West Bengal | 38405 | 33605 |
| | GRAND TOTAL : | 593601 | 562152 |

**Allotment of 2G spectrum**

3106. SHRI P. RAJEEVE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the criteria for allotment of 2G Spectrum in the beginning itself was on the basis of first come first serve mode;

(b) whether his Ministry had made any change in the guidelines for the allotment of 2G Spectrum in 2006; and

(c) whether any previous experience and sufficient infrastructure is a pre requisite for seeking the allotment of 2G Spectrum?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT): (a) Yes, Sir. The criteria for allotment of 2G Spectrum has always been on first-come-first-served mode, subject to availability.

(b) There is no change in the allotment of initial/start up spectrum. The initial spectrum is being allotted, subject to availability, to the Unified Access Service Licensees/CMTS Licensees as per the provisions of their Service License agreement. However, *vide* order dated 29.03.2006, Government revised the subscriber based criteria for allotment of additional spectrum beyond initial/start up spectrum.

(c) 2G spectrum is allotted to Unified Access Service /CMTS Licensees only.

**E-district mission mode projects**

3107. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the status of the proposal of Andhra Pradesh Government for sanction of two e-district Mission Mode Projects (MMP);